

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 to 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over either Talley, Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,767,498 B1), Wagner et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,838,043), or Dugan et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0062658), in combination with Kato (U.S. Patent No. 4,908,176).

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 1 to 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over either Talley, Jr. et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,767,498, Wagner et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,838,043, or Dugan et al., U.S. Publication No. 2003/0062658 in combination with Kato, U.S. Patent No. 4,908,176.

The previous arguments from the last response are incorporated herein. It is further noted that the final office action does not at all address the compressing occurring at “a temperature between a glass transition temperature and a melting temperature of the first polymer” as claimed.

The final office action states merely that “the temperature will be lower than the temperature at which the fiber melts” but does not address or assert that the temperature is above the glass transition temperature as claimed.

Withdrawal of the rejections to the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

The present application is respectfully submitted as being in condition for allowance and applicants respectfully request such action.

Respectfully submitted,
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